AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter endeavors to furnish a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

DID TRADE REASONS AFFECT HIGH COURT?

Washington, March 12.—Public policy and trade, rather than law, caused the United States supreme court to refuse to dissolve the steel trust.

This clear is made not by "ar-latters who would overthrow the government," but by three members of the court who dissented from the majority opinion.

Associate Justice Day made this stinging comment on the majority opinion, which was agreed to by Justices Pitney and Clarke:

"As I understand the conclusions of the court affirming the decree directing dismissal of the bill, they amount to this: That combinations, both the holding company and the subsidiaries which comprise it, although organized in plain violation and bold defiance of the provisions of the act, nevertheless are immune from a decree effectually ending the combinations and putting it out of the power to obtain the unlawful purpose sought, because of some reasons of public policy requiring such conclusion.

"I know of no public policy which sanctions a violation of the law, nor of any inconvenience to trade, domestic or foreign, which should have the effect of placing combinations, which have been declared to be organs one of the greatest industries of the country in defiance of law, in an impregnable position to defy the control of the law forbidding such combinations.

"Such a conclusion does violence to the policy which the law was intended to enforce, runs counter to the decisions of the court, and necessarily results in a practical nullification of the act itself."

"MORALISTS" SCORED.

Richmond, Va., March 12.—Editor Drake in the Evening Journal, official newspaper of the local trade union movement, scores "moralists" who are ignoring efforts to bring about the 16-year-old child labor in this state.

The Journal says: "One of legislation has advanced the bill permitting the employment of these children in canneries of the state for 10 hours a day and the labor editor says:

"Against this bill have arrayed only the labor movement. The political preachers who have been so active in other initiative measures have strangely avoided helping to fight this vicious measure. While the bill which provides that ice cream can be sold legally on Sunday was bitterly fought by certain preachers and legislative leaders, yet these same men are found either silent while this legislation is being rushed through or actively assisting in passing the bill. They fail to provide extra jobs for censors to pass on whether or not we are to see moving pictures or not but these moral leaders actively championing it and have seemed anxious to preserve the morals of the people. These gentlemen were sadly missing when the child labor bill came up for a vote."

INSANE IN PRISONS.

New York, March 12.—Fifty per cent of the men in penal institutions in this state do not belong there, said Governor Smith in a speech in this city.

Inadequate provisions for public health-physical and mental—are brought about this condition, the governor said, adding that the steady increase in the number of mentally deficient and insane persons. The state suffers frequently from both the apathy of the legislature and the public generally toward the problem of public health.

"There is something wrong in this state," he continued. "Considerably more than one-half of the men in prison belong in hospitals. It is not correctional care that they need; it is a doctor's attention. We care for them for years, but they stay only two years and then they come back again. Nothing is done to remedy their defects."

BLANTON IS A JOKE.

Washington, March 12.—Blanton of Texas is a joke in the house of representatives. He maintains the spotlight when only one objection by a member of the house is necessary to defeat a wage increase that is alleged as a "dire" case of appropriation bill. Blanton's other "long suit" is to talk on everything and object to everything that raises the expenditure of money.

Last week one of his colleagues stated on the floor of the house that "we ought not to criticise the gentleman from Texas for occasionally about a rule which for four hours did not permit him to make a speech."

The house cheered this statement and Blanton subsided—for the moment.

HISTORY CLASS IS READY.

New York, March 12.—Are the readers of the New York Times unacquainted with economic history of centuries continued. "Conducted by with the editor?

In answer to the Kansas "cant-strike" law, this newspaper says:

"In the end the principles upon which it sounded will prevail. As a pioneer (Governor) Henry J. Allen has earned the gratitude of his countrymen.

English employers and statesmen of this age have turned from in their graves if they knew that the Kansas author has stolen their thunder and is classed as a pioneer.

ANTI-RED BILL A BLIND.

Frankfort, Ky., March 13.—The state senate has passed a bill that purports to be aimed at the Ku Klux syndicalism. The organized workers opposed it on the ground that it would place a new weapon in the hands of judges who are opposed to trade unions.

In his speech against the measure Senator Baker charged that in one coal-producing county in this state the county judge and the sheriff are on the pay roll of coal companies and that they have been instrumental in preventing miners from joining the United Mine Workers.

MORE AMERICANIZATION.

Washington, March 12.—The list of persons and things that need Americanizing has been enlarged by Franklin D. Roosevelt, assistant secretary of the navy.

For hedge-podge methods of connecting business, he says, the congress of the United States and the executive department of the government need Americanizing more than any other of our institutions.

A. F. OF L. OPPONENTS ADOPT NEW METHODS

Washington, March 13.—Intelligent capitalists and their retainers no longer claim that "Gompers is attempting to destroy the labor vote." These individuals find that labor is determined to vigorously apply its non-partisan political principle and that the A. F. of L. executive is simply doing his duty as an officer of the trade union movement.

Since this exception, in 1906, the A. F. of L. has urged this political theory. It took bold men to resist the powerful opposition of 1908, but 40 years ago, but the organized workers maintained their position. Of late years other groups of citizens have accepted the A. F. of L. theory, and the more intelligent foes of labor's opponents realize that their charge against President Gompers is ridiculous. So they hasten to assure trade unionists that political progress, as such, is perfectly proper, but evil days would befall our country if one class dominates the government solely for its selfish benefit.

Behind this from men who favor anti-strike legislation and the injunction process, who would outlaw the boycott, who favor the anti-trust act, and who applaud congress when railroad stockholders are guaranteed a 5½ per cent dividend, regardless of how railroad receipts are squandered, or how many roads are wrecked these properties.

It is against "special privileges" to organized labor that worries labor's opponents. Rather do they fear an A. F. of L. conference of their non-partisanship ignore the historic fact that the party was born in protest, and was not even advocated, when this nation was founded.

SHALL WORKERS PROGRESS?

Indianapolis, March 12.—Shall the worker's wages be based on the cost of living or shall he be permitted to progress? asks the United Mine Workers' Journal.

"If we interpret wage to accept as final a wage fixed solely on a cost-of-living base, he would be but a step removed from the position of a slave," says this labor paper.

"It is a constant struggle, a battle day in and day out merely to be able to work, get along, and feed hungry little mouths at home and to provide enough clothing to keep himself and family decently. Every opportunity would there be for the worker to develop his mentality, to raise himself from the rut wherein he would accept his position as his fate. Little hope, little ambition, little hope for no betterment! All interests, both civic and political would be submerged by the greater necessity of providing for the daily physical needs.

"If the worker is to be regarded as a factor in the affairs of life his rights are to be safeguarded by more than a wage scale. His wage is only fair to allow him the full prerogatives to which he is entitled."

WHY SEAMEN REJOICE.

San Francisco, March 13.—"On Saturday, March 6, the Seafarers' union of the Pacific was 25 years of age," says the Seamen's Journal. "Only a few of the hundreds who were present at the birth of the union are left to celebrate. Years they stay out two years and then they only come back again. Nothing is done to remedy their defects."

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"LIBERALISM" RUN TO SEED

BY PRESIDENT GOMPERS IN AMERICAN FEDERATIONIST.

Another section of "liberal opinion" seeks to bring about compulsory arbitration. It believes there is progress in complicated systems of conciliation boards with their interminable tangles of precedent and delay.

"Industrial courts" sound like something wide-awake and new. Therefore the faddists of liberalism favor the "industrial courts" and regional tribunals and boards and all the rest of the machinery for the arrest of democracy.

"Liberalism" declares that labor must have better treatment, but it is frequently very careful not to advocate that the workers by their own efforts shall come into possession of determining voice in getting better treatment.

There is an honest and genuine liberal and progressive opinion in America. It is found in all walks of life. There are men and women in the so-called middle class and in the class of employers and among capitalists who are deeply devoted to true progress and who honestly forward it. But the evil and ill thought of faddism in reaching their conclusions.

Too often this opinion is voiceless and makes itself known only to a few through personal contact and correspondence. Then there gets itself known as the "liberal opinion" that is expressed in the extravagant shoddy product that by freak of fortune happens to control media for the dissemination of what is pleasant and possible on the fringe of these matters of human life.

That is the difficulty. The world knows more about the shoddy and the make-believe than it does about the noble and true. The shoddy loves to talk and to write and to compromise its very fakery; and because so many people are soul-hungry for honest progress, because so many are still afame with the idealism developed and released by the great war, the shoddy purveyors are at this hour unusually prosperous.

This is regrettable. It is a situation. It has to be faced.

But this is not all that is to be said on the subject. The trade union movement, which so often comes under the fire of these foot-loose and fancy-free "liberals" is a force of constancy, forced by the nature of its being to be always fundamentally progressive. It has no place to go but forward. It is bound to liberal and progressive opinion in America. It is found in all walks of life. There are men and women in the so-called middle class and in the class of employers and among capitalists who are deeply devoted to true progress and who honestly forward it. But the evil and ill thought of faddism in reaching their conclusions.

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There is a distinct lesson to be learned from the state of what is called "liberal opinion" in America today. There is in our country a section of the public, such as there always has been in every country, which has sufficiently broken away from traditions and interests of the past to look forward to improvement of some kind. Perhaps nevers in any country, has this "liberal opinion" been more pleasantly in evidence than in America today.

The fact is that a great part, and perhaps the greater part, of this opinion which labels itself "liberal" is a reality not progressive in any fundamental sense. In addition, it frequently acts as a reinforcement for the powers of privilege.

The reason for the disintegrated state of "liberal opinion" is that it is the opinion of no definitely fixed section of the people, but is the expression for the most part of individuals of different types and interests, bound together by no real tie and likely to go astray at any time because of the extreme personal bent of reasoning engendered by the individual's own personal surroundings.

The interests of "liberals" is not a class interest. There are "liberals" among bankers, "liberals" among writers, "liberals" who make steel mill owners. The "liberalism" of each is largely a matter of the size of the contrast between him and the rest of his own kind.

There is in America today a certain "liberalism" which sees salvation for everybody in the development of what is called "the shop committee" system. This system is a bogus democracy in industry by which the worker, where not enrolled in an actual company union, is enrolled in an organization that does not extend beyond the shop in question. He is really prevented away from his fellow workers in the industry. This shrewd and cunning device is one of the worst that is more than organized weakness. Its evil is almost as great as unionism because the trade unionist has the background of years of struggle and experience to draw upon in his labor tactics. Yet the number of liberals" who are ready to accept it or who are so pronouncedly for these rights also are for recognition of industrial unionism. They are favorable of some liberty at home, and in favor of some progress in minor things. Those are the things of things they are for stand-pattism at home and for taking off the yoke everywhere else in the world. "Liberalism," in advocating recognition of industrial unionism, is a thing of cakes, while it sounds terribly progressive and broad-minded to shout for its perpetuation in Russia!

SEDITION LAW DANGER, YET MENACES PEOPLE

Washington, March 13.—While there is hardly a possibility that the present congress will repeal or favor the Stirling sedition bill, there is a feeling among many that this legislation have not given up the fight. They have changed their method. Only a few days when Congressman Husted, a member of the house judiciary committee, asked Attorney General Palmer, when that official was testifying, if there would not be wise to drop the term "sedition" and substitute "anarchy." Husted, who is a labor baiter, that "everybody in the country, practically, is against anarchy."

The Graham bill is the same as this suggestion that the sedition provisions be dropped and that the people would be led to believe it means something else—until it becomes effective.

Congressman Husted has introduced a sedition bill, which is shorter than the Graham bill or the Davey bill, the latter having been the bill of the late President Wilson. The Husted bill, however, is as severe as the others. Among other things it makes it unlawful to "promote the destruction of change of the form of government of the United States or the government of any state." When this suggestion that the sedition provisions be dropped and that the people would be led to believe it means something else—until it becomes effective.

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FREEDOM IN AMERICA MUST BE MAINTAINED

Chicago, March 12.—Democracy was heralded as the victor when the first session of the peace conference ended November 11, 1918, writes President Franklin of the Cigar Makers' International Union in the official journal of that organization.

"Labor, that memorable day," says this trade unionist, "a set of reactionary demagogues within our own administration and law-making bodies have attempted to make a farce of American freedom.

"They are befouling the nest that gave them being.

"Attorney General Palmer and his associates, the Lusk committees and other reactionaries will favor the Stirling sedition bill, passed by the senate, above all the legislation have not given up the fight. They have changed their method. Only a few days when Congressman Husted, a member of the house judiciary committee, asked Attorney General Palmer, when that official was testifying, if there would not be wise to drop the term "sedition" and substitute "anarchy." Husted, who is a labor baiter, that "everybody in the country, practically, is against anarchy."

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"Any federal judge could decide that a strike had a political end in view," he said, "and if that was the members of the union on strike to jail for years.

"Any law allowing the judiciary greater latitude in governmental affairs is fraught with all constitutional rights.

"This law would give judges the balance of power in every strike dispute, in every campaign of organization. It would be a censorship over the acts, speech and thought of the American people.

"The times do not warrant such retroactive measures. If our present laws were able to meet, why not perpetuate our government during the war just ended they are surely adequate for the same purpose in time of peace.

"Labor will never agree to such measures. We are going to ask for such democracy at home as we fought for in Europe."

PALMER TO BE PROBED.

Washington, March 13.—The house of representatives has ordered an investigation of Attorney General Palmer's "admitted concurrence" in the firing of Rabbi Wise's Free Russiana sugar. The chairman of the rules committee, who reported out the resolution, declared that the newspaper as privately declaring that the administration might impeach the attorney general.

Mr. Palmer's friends charge that he is "persecuting" the rabbi. It is regrettable that this patriot, whose injunction stopped those striking coal miners from ruining the country last November, should now be the victim of "the hate he aroused him when he "saved the nation."

WILL ARBITRATE WAGES.

Atlanta, March 13.—The local street car company and its organized platform employes will arbitrate their wage controversy, it was well date back to the first of the year and will continue throughout 1920.

Decatur, March 13.—An arbitration board has raised wages 10 cents an hour for motormen and conductors. The new scale is 45 cents an hour for beginners; 55 cents after three months' service, and 58 cents after one year. The award dates back to November 30.

WORKERS LOCKED OUT.

Middletown, Ohio, March 12.—The agitation against kaiserism during the war means nothing to the Cryselli Motor Car company. The company discharged several workers and notified the others that they would have to abandon all notion of forming a union or "get out." Several quit. The rest signed a petty cure now threaten to evict them from company houses.

LAWYERS ORGANIZE.

San Diego, Cal., March 12.—Lawyers in this city have organized, and have filed articles with the high-sounding title of "Lawyers' Institute of San Diego." The purpose of the institute, they with the anti-trade union campaign of business men, who are behind the "San Diego Policy." This is the so-called "open" shop, under a three paper disguise.

PENSIONS FOR MINERS.

Paris, March 13.—The French senate has passed the pension bill recommended by the Miners' Federation.

ROUGH-HOUSE TACTICS BY WILD-MAN BLANTON

Washington, March 13.—In opposing a continuance of the $240 war bonus for federal government employes Congressman Blanton acted like an insane man. The Texas lawmaker became so rabid that he was threatened with censure by the house. The following is taken from the Congressional Record:

Mr. Blanton. Mr. Chairman, a point of order. It will save the reading.

The Chairman—The clerk has not completed the reading of the paragraph.

Mr. Blanton—A point of order, Mr. Chairman.

The Chairman—Nothing is in order until the reading of the paragraph is completed.

Mr. Blanton—A point of order, Mr. Chairman.

The Chairman—The chair declines to recognize the gentleman. The clerk will conclude the reading.

The clerk reads:

Mr. Blanton—I appeal from the decision of the chair.

(The clerk reads.)

Mr. Blanton—Mr. Chairman, a point of order. We have not got a quorum here. I presume the chair will make the body aware of that fact.

The Chairman—The gentleman from Texas is out of order. The chair will count.

Mr. Mann (of Illinois)—The gentleman from Texas is liable to get censured by the house for such remarks.

Mr. Blanton—I presume I have the right to make the point of no quorum.

The Chairman—The gentleman from Texas will be in order. The chair will count.

Mr. Blanton (during the count)—I withdraw the point.

The Chairman (after completing the count)—One hundred and twenty-seven members present, a quorum.

SMOOT WAXES WRATHY.

Washington, March 12.—The announcement that Miss Julia Lathrop, chief of the United States children's bureau, will visit the Balkans to investigate conditions among children States Senator Smoot to wax wrathy. The Utah senator declared his opposition to junketing trips at the taxpayers' cost.

"Miss Lathrop is employed to look after the welfare of American children," said I am in favor of her work," he said, when he was informed that Miss Lathrop would spend over three months.

Trade unionists suggest that if Senator Smoot is interested in child welfare, he should vote for a living wage to government employes.

Miss Lathrop's annual salary reported that low wages is the principle cause of death among children.

KOBBERS ARRESTED.

Nashville, Tenn., March 13.—Four men dashed into and robbed what have been arrested on the charge of kidnaping J. R. Lawson, international representative of the organized street car men. The warrants were sworn out by Mrs. Lawson, who states that on November 9 last he was forcibly taken by the five officials, under threats of death, in an automobile to Springfield, Tenn., and then forced to take a train for Chicago. He was warned if he returned to Nashville he would be killed.

Sensational disclosures are promised when the prisoners are placed on trial. It is hinted that others will be implicated.

WANT JOINT BARGAINING.

Beverly Mass., March 13.—Between 2,600 and 2,000 machinists employed by the United Shoe Machinery company have suspended work to abolish the individual contract system and to secure the establishment of grievance committees with which to confer with the unions and wants to adjust grievances, according to reports. The refending its position at hawks about "freedom," "the open shop" and "liberty."

SWITCHMEN UNITE.

Buffalo, N. Y., March 12. — The Switchmen's Union of North America has chartered unions in the following localities: Creston, Iowa; Grand Island, Neb.; Brownwood, Tex.; Uhrichsville, O.; Mobridge, S. D., and Salamanca and Corning, N. Y.

IRON WORKERS WIN.

New York, March 12.—Rabbit skin workers who have recently organized in Brooklyn and Newark have won a 10-days' strike. Piece workers are advanced 10 per cent and floor workers are raised $5 a week.

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OPPOSE TRADE UNIONS.

Tulsa, Okla., March 12.—Trade unionists warn workers in other parts of the country not to be lured into Oklahoma by claims that "labor is scarce" in the southwest. This is anti-union propaganda by cheap labor advocates who plead for the so-called "open shop."

San Diego, Cal., March 12.—The "logic" of anti-trade unionists passeth understanding. In this city they are opposing the "open shop" advocates, and refer to union established wages. Because of this fact they agree between themselves not to employ trade unionists. These employers have been extorted by "racketeers and agitators."

The so-called "open" shoppers believe in unions if they are run right. But insist that only employers shall determine wages, hours and working conditions.

CITY HAS CO-OP. STORES.

Marseilles, France, March 13.—The municipal council has established a central consumers' co-operative store. It has been authorized and appropriated 5,000,000 francs to capitalize it. The city has purchased lins of food products, including fresh and salted meat, and clothing and shoes will be sold. Seventy per cent of the surplus profits will be given to the municipality the consumers and employes and 20 per cent is devoted to assisting the aged and invalids, and in co-operative and trade union educational work.

"RADICALS" PROSPER.

New York, March 13.—Waiters' union No. 1 is making it possible for workers to think when they read the following notice which is posted on the bulletin that professes to be "radical." The dual organization shouts "no" to the request of the waiters' union while urging employers to accept its wage scale. It is a notice similar to that of the bona fide trade union. The dualists favor strikes because the strike-breaking agencies spend under "secret" funds and no accounting is made. Many funds are raised by appealing to recognized trade unions.

UNDER COMPENSATION ACT.

Ottawa, Ontario, March 12. — The government has placed all workers employed in the moving picture business under the workmen's compensation act. The organized workers, as usual, made no fight for this decision.

STATE UNIONS TO MEET.

Bluefield, W. Va., March 12.—The annual convention of the West Virginia state federation of labor will be held in this city beginning March 15, 16.

BINDERY WORKERS OUT.

Augusta, Ga., March 13.—Bookbinders and bindery women have suspended work to enforce wage increases that will re-establish prewar living standards.

SHAM AMERICANIZATION PLAN; SPOKEN ENGLISH NOT TAUGHT

Washington, March 13.—In a report on "The Problems of Adult Education in Peace," N. J., the United States bureau of education shows the absence of democracy in an alleged Americanization movement in that city.

Passaic is one of the three cities in the United States having the largest amount of illiteracy. According to the last census one out of every three persons (15,197) could not speak English and 55 per cent of all the foreign born 10 years of age and over could not speak English. Seventy-three per cent of all males of voting age were foreign born and only 26 per cent of them were naturalized.

From 1915 to the present time approximately 260 persons a year have attended evening English classes maintained by the public schools and about 200 a year have attended schools conducted by semi religious organizations.

The bureau of education investigators say that the reason for this is that the foreigners "do not want to learn English." It is stated that the method of handling this situation is unsatisfactory as it is based on the theory of working out plans "for" the people, and not "with" them. The report states one of bewildering to work changes from the top down instead of from the bottom up," says the report.

"Also, it can not be denied that the attitude of suspicion of the members of the class as though they were afraid to accept favors unkindly, but the tone of the voice was not that of an equal addressing equals."

The investigators declare that the best teaching of English was found in a class of workers taught by a trade union committee. The organization was not always correct, but the spirit in the class was that of equals working out a problem together. The men were working hard, even doing home work from each lesson, and there was an atmosphere of mutual helpfulness that was most inspiring."

It is stated that mill owners maintain an inspector system of their employes. This charge is doubly significant when read in connection with the statement that the English language "was not taught for purposes of communication."

The criticism of the workers that they were taught to read and write, but not to speak, was a well-founded criticism, it is stated.

Aside from the espionage system the treatment of the foreigners as "subjects" to be educated to learn what they must desire—the report declares—is exceptional persons who, after a 1-hour day, will come to the school and do hard home work on learning a new language, says the report. "Nor can be expected that a large majority of those having an eight-hour day will have the energy or the desire to attend school in the evening."

LABOR-FARMER COMBINE.

Raleigh, N. C., March 12.—Organized wage earners and farmers have agreed on a questionnaire that will be submitted to political candidates in this state. Special interests have attempted to block this movement but it is going on regardless of the other, but the trade unionists and farmers are acting jointly.

It is proposed to check rent profiteering by fixing rentals of not over 6 per cent upon valuations made by the tax books, plus same percentage on the value of improvements, this not to apply to share farming.

Candidates will be asked how they stand on a child labor law "that will be divorced from school, welfare or any other existing agency. Another query is: "Would you favor the Australian ballot system, whereby every man may vote for or against his vote free and untrammeled and without intimidation, coercion or espionage, thereby insuring a fair and honest election?"

CALL ON "BIG BROTHER."

Washington, March 13.—Unknown little company "unions" in the railroad service are trying to crawl under the big brotherly wing of the A. F. of L. and are asking officials of bona fide railroad organizations to recognize them. A committee from the meeting made for the three labor members of the board that will be created under the new railroad bill to adjust disputes.

These company "unions" could never see their way clear to affiliate with the trade union movement, but it appears now that they will remain outside the fold, as the interstate commerce commission has called on the recognized trade unions to make nominations for the labor board. The mechanical department of the railroads, represented by the shop crafts, has called for 25 names; the transportation department, represented by the four brotherhoods and the switchmen, will present two and the maintenance of way department, represented by trackmen, telegraphers, etc., will present two. From these six the president will select three. The president will appoint three on behalf of the public, and the railroad managers will present at least six names from which the president will choose three.

DO ROADS FAVOR STRIKE?

New York, March 12—Writing in the Journal of Commerce on railroad matters, Broaden Wall makes these pointed observations:

"The companies intend to wait until September 1 before reducing salaries of such employes who will be left in their positions. They are not even considering an increase in wages. The only thing they are figuring on is the extent of the cut that will be announced. Such a policy strikes will not have much effect for they realize that it will be difficult to bring strike to settle the question of who is to run the railroads anyhow and it will be possible then to have the matter adjusted as quickly as possible.

"Under no circumstances are buying railroad stocks is buying into a free fight."

GAINS BY STEREOTYPERS.

Lowell, Mass., March 12.—A new wage agreement between newspaper publishers and the Stereotypers' union provides that foremen shall be paid $60 a week and journeymen $2.50 a day or night. The old rates were: foremen, $4.50 a day; journeymen, $4.

Albany, N. Y., March 12.—Stereotypers in this city and in Troy have advanced wages a week and secured a bonus of $1 a week.

Evansville, Ind., March 12.—A wage increase of $1.25 a day has been secured by the Stereotypers' union.

BIG BIZ IS RESOURCEFUL.

Phoenix, Ariz., March 12.—The resourcefulness of big business is shown in the trial of copper owners and others on the charge of peonage, living 1,300 miners at Bisbee in 1917.

The state appears determined to prove that peonage and a desire to "help" employers' association has appeared on the scene and is protecting them, but the state against spending the people's money. It is estimated that the cost of the trial will be $100,000, all of which will be paid by the mining companies.

FAVOR HIGHER PAY.

New York, March 12.—Low wages for public school teachers have created such a desperate condition in this city that the chamber of commerce has unanimously voted that the teachers be given a 25 to 50 per cent increase.

It is stated that this is the first time in the history that this business organization has declared in favor of a wage increase for workers.

WRITES TO MR. POINDEXTER.

Sioux City, Iowa, March 12.—"Sell what you have and forego what you have a brain to stand it," is the advice E. J. O'Connor of this city gives to the United States Senator Poindexter, who asks the local man to assist him in forming a "Poindexter for President Club."

"A study of your 'Platform of Principles' reveals the fact," says Mr. O'Conner, "that your particular brand of politics is the same as those against the strange, radicalism, which you have built up, and which in mongrel birth of so many forms is now a menace to us, but it is against the "tyranny of the majority."

"If I have you aised up right, you are a lawyer, and not an employer of men and women. Will you tell me, the explanation of all this worry about the 'open shop' and the 'closed shop?' The only explanation, patent to an outsider, of this contradiction of circumstances is found in the cry of 'windy attorney of those who do employ men and women, coal heavers, etc. Well, I don't know as you should be blamed severely. Steel kings, wire kings, wheat kings, have dodles of money and money is the most precious commodity in one's presidential campaign."

WOULD NULLIFY I. & R. LAW.

San Francisco, March 12.—Officials of the state federation of labor warn trade unionists against a proposal that would destroy the initiative and referendum.

Petitions are being circulated to nullify the initiative law. Petitions are required for any initiative petition relating to taxes from 6 per cent to 8 per cent.

"There is no good reason for limiting the initiative," the unionists say. "With the 8 per cent requirement, and under normal conditions as in 1912, when more than 64,000 varied signatures are required for a measure on the ballot. With a 25 per cent requirement more than 200,000 signatures would be necessary to qualify a measure for a place on the ballot.

"The people can be trusted—even to have a voice in saying how they shall be taxed."

FREEDOM FOR ALL IS URGED.

Madison, Wis., March 12.—The Capital Times reviews present tendencies in the affairs of the nations and declares that it is the duty of the friends of the labor movement to aid in the fight for the maintenance of academic freedom of teachers.

"Labor has a right to a 'closed faculty' says this paper, "have back of it both of intelligence and loyalty that are interested financially in getting the most out of life.

"That condition should not be permitted to exist. The people of a state, for the best interests of the institution. They have a right to demand that the regents should look to the people of Wisconsin as a source of supply for training exploiters of the east for their use."

POSTAL EMPLOYES UNITE.

Vienna, Austria, March 12.—The International Federation of Postal, Telegraph and Telephone Employes effected its organization at a conference of delegates from Italy, France, Germany, Holland, Belgium and other European countries. It has a membership of 1,000,000. Its struggle for improved conditions mainly will be directed against the anti-trade with the International Federation of Trade Unions. The conference decided to establish offices at Berne, Switzerland, and everything leading against war and everything leading for peace. The executive committee consists of representatives from Austria, Holland, France and Italy.

TEAMSTERS STRIKE.

Wheeling, W. Va., March 12.—Several hundred teamsters were forced out on strike when they refused to sign union estitude of employers. The teamsters recently organized.

Hoquiam, Wash., March 12.—The Hoquiam Lumber & Shingle company, No. 639 calls for a $4 rate except for milk and cream, according to dairies. The latter will be paid $42 a week with butter, milk and eggs at $40.

DEATHS IN INDUSTRY.

Philadelphia, March 13.—Industrial accidents in this state caused the loss of 222 accidents during the last year, according to the state department of labor and industry. Of these number 255 were fatal, 3,397 were serious and 14,696 were of a minor nature. Throughout the state 112,544 accidents, including 2,569 fatalities, occurred in 1919.

MOLDERS GET $7 RATE.

Dayton, Ohio, March 12.—Iron molders have secured a new wage agreement from employers in this city. Rates are $7 for an eight-hour day.